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## **There's a hole in DeGette's statement**

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Washington - Sen. Wayne Allard is tops in seniority among Colorado lawmakers on Capitol Hill, and he's happy - with a catch - to let Rep. Diana DeGette call herself "the Dean of the Colorado Delegation."

DeGette's office laid claim to that title in a statement Wednesday. The Denver Democrat, first elected to the House in 1996, is the longest serving of the seven Colorado House members. Allard, a Republican, was elected to the Senate in 1996 after spending six years in the House.

DeGette is in the clear, according to House historian Anthony Wallis, as her remark is understood to apply only to her chamber.

Allard had a more bottom-line opinion.

Through his spokesman, Steve Wymer, he said, "As the dean of the Colorado delegation, there's a tradition that I purchase the coffee and doughnuts for delegation meetings. Tell Diana DeGette that if she's the dean of the delegation, I'll go ahead and send her the bill."

DeGette, in a statement about a House race, meant she was the dean of the House delegation, said spokesman Kris Eisenla.

And the coffee and doughnuts?

"We're happy to pick up the tab," Eisenla said.